



PESTICIDE ESA NEWS

Washington State Department of Agriculture ➔ Endangered Species Program Newsletter



March 15, 2006

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Bridget Moran
Program Manager/
Environmental Toxicologist
(360) 902-1936
bmoran@agr.wa.gov

Deborah Bahs
Crop & Pesticide Use
Specialist
(360) 902-2067
dbahs@agr.wa.gov

Perry Beale
Crop Mapping Specialist
(360) 902-2065
pbeale@agr.wa.gov

Jim Cowles, Ph.D.
Environmental Toxicologist
(360) 902-2066
jcowles@agr.wa.gov

Ed Thompson
IT Application Specialist
(360) 902-2064
ethompson@agr.wa.gov

Ed Von Grey
Pesticide Use Management
Specialist
(509) 782-2520
EVonGrey@agr.wa.gov

QUESTIONS?

For more information about the Endangered Species Program, visit our Web site at
agr.wa.gov/PestFert/EnvResources/EndangSpecies.htm

We welcome your input. Please send your comments and questions to the WSDA Endangered Species Program at
esp@agr.wa.gov

Skagit surface water monitoring study begins

This month, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) began measuring pesticide residues in salmon-bearing streams in Skagit County. Water samples will be taken during the typical pesticide use season in four watersheds representative of the county's agricultural land-use patterns - the Samish River, Indian Slough, Browns Slough and Big Ditch.

The Skagit study will provide additional state-specific data for federal assessments of a pesticide's potential risk to salmon and, in the long term, the data may be used to determine if pesticide use mitigation efforts are successful.

Agricultural stakeholders asked WSDA to add Skagit streams to its existing surface water monitoring program. They were concerned that on-going lawsuits by environmental groups to strengthen the Endangered Species Act could lead to restrictions or outright bans on certain pesticide uses, impairing agriculture's access to certain crop protection chemicals.

The existing surface water study has been measuring pesticide concentrations in salmon-bearing streams in the Lower Yakima Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA 37) and Thornton Creek located in Seattle.

For additional information about the WSDA Surface Water Monitoring Program, visit agr.wa.gov/PestFert/EnvResources/SWM/default.htm ➔



Shown discussing sampling sites are from left: Skagit County stakeholders Mike Shelby, Mike Rundlett, John Roozen & Deborah Ingles and Chris Burke, field project coordinator.

EPA announces Internet-based use bulletins

On Feb. 22, EPA announced the implementation of a program that will allow pesticide users to check an Internet site to determine if certain pesticide applications require use

ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

This product may have effects on federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat in some locations. When using this product, you must follow the measures contained in the Endangered Species Protection Bulletin for the county or parish in which you are applying the pesticide. To determine whether your county or parish has a Bulletin, and to obtain that Bulletin, consult <http://www.epa.gov/espp/>, or call 1-800-447-3813 no more than 6 months before using this product. Applicators must use Bulletins that are in effect in the month in which the pesticide will be applied. New Bulletins will generally be available from the above sources 6 months prior to their effective dates.

This statement, located near the General Use Instructions on a pesticide label, alerts applicators to possible product use limitations to protect listed species.

modifications to protect threatened or endangered species. The use limitations are enforceable under the mis-use provisions of FIFRA.

However, it will be at least 6 months before the first "Endangered Species Protection Bulletin" is posted to the web and another 6 months before the bulletin goes into effect.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Once the Internet site is on line, applicators can visit the web page and “click” on their state to select a county (or counties) from a drop-down list. Applicators then can select the month of the planned application and the use limitation, if any, will be listed.

Each county will have only one Endangered Species Protection Bulletin which will list all pesticide active ingredients that require use modifications to protect listed species.

A detail of the geographic areas impacted by the use limitations will also be part of the bulletin.

The Endangered Species Protection Bulletins are part of the Endangered Species Protection Plan. The ESPP allows EPA to carry out their FIFRA responsibilities in compliance with ESA while not placing an unnecessary burden on agriculture and other pesticide users.

A toll-free number will be available for pesticide applicators without Internet access. ➔

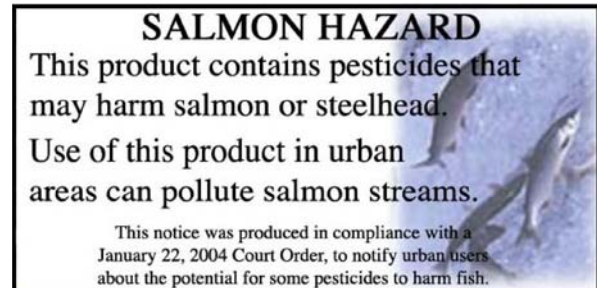
EPA to mail “point-of-sale” notification instructions

In the next 3 – 4 weeks, certain pesticide registrants and retailers in specified urban areas will receive written instructions from EPA regarding the distribution of point-of-sale notifications for seven pesticide active ingredients.

The pesticide active ingredients that require a “salmon hazard” warning are: 2,4-D, carbaryl, diazinon, diuron, malathion, triclopyr BEE, and trifluralin.

The letters to both registrants and retailers will include a list of the pesticide products containing these active ingredients and each letter will also include eight “point of sale” notifications. These notifications will measure 2" by 4" and include the “salmon hazard” warning.

EPA worked with Earthjustice, the law firm representing Washington Toxics Coalition, for over 6 months to develop these notices and plans for their distribution. The effort was a result of an Oct. 2005 court order requiring EPA to provide notice by mail of the urban notification requirements in the **Washington Toxics Coalition, et al., v. EPA lawsuit**. ➔



Fish Facts: How does your garden grow?

Salmon may not spawn in flower beds, but our yards may be affecting salmon habitat.

With the gardening season fast approaching, remember that decisions about home landscaping can have a significant impact on salmon habitat. Every time we plant, fertilize, water, mow or control pests in our yards and gardens, we can choose methods that aid salmon recovery:

- Water lawns deeply but infrequently. The seasonal pattern for watering lawns is a bell-shaped curve: low water use in the spring and early summer, peak water use in July, and low water use in the late summer and fall. Water before 10 a.m. to reduce evaporation.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

- Mow high, mow often and leave the clippings. Longer grass blades shade the soil and retain moisture, so set your mower blades to leave grass about three inches long. For clean mowing that leaves no visible clippings, consider using a mulching mower.
- Apply only the pesticides and fertilizers necessary to maintain healthy lawns and gardens. Unnecessary chemical applications or chemical overuse can damage soil and lawn health and wash away into groundwater or streams.
- Washington State University recommends that home lawns receive 3 to 4 lbs. of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn each year. Grass cycling can supply at least one-quarter of the nitrogen requirement. For the rest, fertilizer moderately in September and May with a "natural organic" or "slow-release" fertilizer.
- When landscaping, buy plants that are low water-users. If you use thirsty plants, group them together for efficient watering and mulch them well to retain moisture and keep weeds down. Weeds can add to water uptake.
- Consider alternatives to lawn on steep slopes, shady areas or near streams and lakes. Go native. Plants that are native to the area live thrive with little care. They attract wildlife, don't need fertilizers or pesticides, and are drought resistant.



Salmon-friendly garden designed by the Portico Group for the Northwest Flower and Garden Show. Photograph by David McDonald.

“Salmon-friendly” landscapes work with natural processes to grow healthy plants with minimum irrigation, fertilizer and pesticides. In addition to keeping water clean and protecting salmon habitat, salmon-friendly yards may also save you time and money. ➔

Fish Facts: Raven's restitution



Haida legend tells of how Raven stole salmon, a food staple of many Native American coastal communities, from the Beaver people.

Raven rolled up the Beaver peoples' streams and landscapes like a carpet and flew away. His load was so heavy that he could only fly a short distance at a time. He would stop wherever there was a tree for him to rest.

The Beaver people transformed themselves back into beavers in order to stop him. They gnawed down the trees where Raven rested. The falling trees allowed salmon and streams to escape the rolled up landscape – forming the great streams and rivers of where salmon now live. ➔

Banner art credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service